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GREEN CARGO

U of A students hope design goes the distance at eco-marathon

metroNEWS



KEVIN TUONG / FOR METRO

Islamophobia hotline to combat hate provincewide

NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES

Staff will assess calls to decide if they should notify police



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

An Alberta Muslim group is setting up a new hotline to take reports of Islamophobia from across the province.

The Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council is encouraging people who experience an Islamophobic incident to call 1-800-607-3312 and leave a message describing it so staff from the council can follow up.

The council's president Faisal Suri said with many new Muslim immigrants arriving in the country and a few isolated incidents, they want to make sure people have somewhere to reach out.

"The goal is to make sure that we are

providing a support mechanism," he said.

Suri said staff are going to assess the calls and decide if they should be forwarded to police to investigate. He said Edmonton Police have always been supportive, but some hate crimes directed against Muslims are likely not being addressed.

"EPS has been fantastic in dealing with a lot of these issues that come to light, but a lot of issues are not reported to police," he said.

Mohyuddin Mirza, a spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, said they combat Islamophobia in their

own way, by being open so people can see negative stereotypes about Muslims are inaccurate.

"We are gaining more ground by going a different route and opening our mosque and holding open houses," he said.

He said their mosque has been vandalized in the past, but they don't believe it was racially motivated.

"Rather a couple of drunk people walking around throwing bottles."

“

A lot of issues are not reported to police.

Faisal Suri

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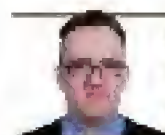
NORTH OF EXTRAORDINARY



Traffic tie-ups ahead as spring begins

CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Whitemud overpass to get underway this week



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

With the snow almost melted away, Edmonton's other season is almost upon us: Construction closures start next week.

The city has a host of major construction projects set for 2016 with the 53 Avenue overpass over Whitemud Drive getting started this week.

Matt Boiko, general supervisor of special projects with the transportation branch, said the overpass work will mean traffic delays, but repairs are still needed.

"We know there is going to be impacts, but the bridge has to be done. The latest assessment showed it needs this," he said.

At the other end of the Whitemud there will also be delays as the city finishes widening work between 50th Street and 17th Street.

Boiko said they expect similar delays as last year when the road was widened between 50th Street and 75th Street. He encouraged people to look at

alternate routes.

The 102 Avenue Bridge work should also finish up this year, after bent girders delayed the project in 2015. Boiko said that project is moving along well because of the mild winter that has allowed crews to complete some work. He said they really want to open it up as soon as possible.

"We're moving it forward as quickly as we possibly can," he said. "It's having impacts to the surrounding business, we know that right now."

The contractor placed an insulated tent around the bridge and Boiko said they have already completed one of three concrete pours of the bridge deck.



We know there is going to be impacts, but the bridge has to be done.

Matt Boiko on the Whitemud overpass

Also on the city's list this year will be the completion of the new Walterdale Bridge and work on the 50th Street overpass at the Sherwood Park Freeway.

Because the old Walterdale Bridge remains in place the construction is not expected to cause major delays, but the

50th Street overpass will lead to some closures and delays.

Boiko said planners work to make sure construction projects don't all hit the same corner of the city at once.



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POLITICS

Right would be wrong to unite: Strategist

The emergence of another Unite the Right group has one political strategist rolling his eyes.

Prem Singh, co-founder of Alberta Can't Wait, said she isn't a fan of the political spectrum, but wants conservatives to put aside their differences to ensure the NDP isn't re-elected and that all Albertans are heard.

But Political Strategist Stephen Carter said no political parties are going to benefit from a possible PC-Wildrose merge.

"We're not as right wing as people think we are," he said. "Uniting the Right isn't a recipe for success — the best way to get elected is to go where the voters are, and they're not at the right."

"If I was the Wildrose, I'd get them to forget about Unite the Right and instead unite the voters."

But Singh said Albertans want a conservative government.

"I don't think there's a mechanism for the average Albertan to voice their opinions and their desires," she said.

Singh noted distrust lingers between both the Wildrose and PCs, adding the topic of social issues will be discussed at its forum later this month.

With a possible unification of conservatives, centrist voters — those who are fiscally conservative and socially liberal — will be left with fewer options.

Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark said his party's doors are open to those who aren't a fan of the province's two conservative parties. He said Alberta Party memberships have increased by about 20 per cent since the last general election.

JEREMY SIMES/METRO IN CALGARY

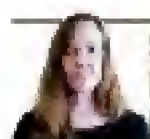


Michelle Luyimbazi, with the Creative Practices Institute stands outside their Oliver building. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Unique arts space hits 2-year milestone

ARTS

Institute has seen over 10 artists in residence



Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

Visual artist Brittney Roy says the Oliver character house, which the Creative Practices Institute now calls home, is a place she fell in love with at first sight.

She found it on a Kijiji search

one day, and touring it knew it would be the home to a new collaborative arts space.

"The natural light of the space and the way it felt more approachable than many gallery spaces, we knew right away," said Roy. "It just felt different than other art spaces."

Two years later the open gallery space is still going and the Institute has seen over 10 artists through its residency program. After two years of operation, a sense of stability and interaction with users of the space provides a firm direction for the institute moving forward.

"We've refined the program-



It just felt different than other art spaces.

Brittney Roy

ming, and we're looking forward to load up the schedule," said Roy.

And the non-profit arts space has a lot on its agenda.

The Institute will be introducing a mentorship program in the fall, the Emerging Artist Mentorship Program, and will host 20 workshops throughout

the year on professional development and entrepreneurship in the arts. That's in addition to its six residency positions and four exhibits per year.

Roy is hopeful the gallery space will see more foot traffic in the upcoming year as well.

The seven original founders of the space wanted to create a community of mentorship to allow a diverse range of artists to learn from each other.

The space exists completely on grants and donations, including events such as the second year anniversary party and fundraiser being held at The Almanac on Thursday.

PLANNING

Remand reno a big cost

The future of the Edmonton Remand Centre remains a question three years after it was emptied in favour of a new facility in the north end.

After Qualico vice president Ken Cantor proposed it be turned into a campus for Centre High, an arts space or a hospice, Procura president George Schluessel has suggested it could serve as affordable housing. But that could not happen without large costs and careful conversation.

"I never would have guessed it could be renovated in any economical fashion," said John Kolkman research co-ordinator with the Edmonton Social Planning Council and a resident of the community. Kolkman says costs to create self-contained housing for independent living — including individual kitchens and bathrooms, as well as opening up the window spaces — could be substantial.

And recurring conversation on concentration of low income housing would come up.

"The stigma is not an issue for housing advocates," said Kolkman.

"But the concentration of affordable housing has been brought up as an issue in the past."

SAMANTHA POWER/FOR METRO



Site of the Edmonton Remand Centre. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi speaks at an Edmonton Chamber luncheon event Tuesday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

No fix for past LRT deal: Sohi

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Feds won't make up for Tory funding discrepancies



Ottawa's new transit funding plan will bring significantly more money for transit expansion to Edmonton, but it won't correct a funding imbalance left over from the previous government.

In a speech to the Edmonton chamber, Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi touted the Liberals' new infrastructure plan that will invest \$20 billion in transit across the country over the next decade.

The previous Conservative government committed \$400 million, or roughly 25 per cent, of the funding to the Valley Line LRT project, but then went on to make announcements in Calgary, Ottawa and Toronto, offering to cover up to 33 per cent of those project costs.

If Edmonton had received the same one-third funding agreement it would have

amounted to an additional \$133.3 million to the city.

Mayor Don Iveson raised the issue during the campaign and sought commitments from all the federal leaders that the imbalance would be addressed.

Sohi said the government does not plan to deliver that \$133 million, because it isn't funding the projects in other cities the way the Conservatives would have.

"The program that the previous government introduced to provide one-third funding to other systems, compared to less money for Edmonton, we are not going to continue that program."

Sohi said future LRT phases would be eligible for up to 50 per cent of the costs and the Liberals will treat all cities equally when it comes to funding.

"That money will be distributed equally to all provinces and municipalities based on needs," he said.

Coun. Andrew Knack said there is some frustration the Liberals aren't changing what was a bad funding formula, but he's encouraged about the investment they are making in transit overall.

"I'm not going to put the blame on the current federal government."

ANIMAL WELFARE

Protest fails to sway province on Lucy's care

Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

Advocates asking for the removal of Edmonton Valley Zoo's 40-year-old elephant Lucy held a protest Tuesday, but the provincial government wasn't swayed.

The Save Lucy group protested outside the office of Minister of Environment and Parks Shannon Phillips asking her to revoke the

zoo permit of the Edmonton Valley Zoo. The group says because Lucy is the only elephant at the zoo she has insufficient space and is in violation of standards.

Phillips' office responded that the Alberta government works to adhere to regulations.

"We regularly review the health management plan and treatment documentation for all animals at the zoo and are comfortable with the assessment of Lucy's veterinarians and other

elephant specialists that travel could be life threatening," said a statement from Jason Penner, of Alberta Environment and Parks.

Elephant expert Dr. James Osterhuis examined Lucy in March of last year and determined she has a fulfilling and complicated life, but a unique respiratory problem complicates decisions about her care. Osterhuis says he is fearful if she were put in the stress of a long move the problem could become a crisis.



Lucy the elephant
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Students unveil eco-car

ENGINEERING

'Alice' a fierce competitor in fuel-efficiency marathon



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

A team of students from the University of Alberta hopes to put the school on the map for alternative energy with the unveiling of a new hydrogen fuel-cell car.

Nicknamed "Alice," the one-seater vehicle is the third generation of zero-emission cars designed and built by the multidisciplinary Eco-Car Team. But according to Natasha Pye, a first-year engineering student who joined the team this year, this version represents a step forward in technology.

For starters, it's about 20 kilograms lighter than its predecessors, thanks to a new carbon fibre shell and wheels. It also has an app that allows



'Alice' is the new zero-emissions car designed and built by U of A students. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

the team to monitor the car's performance while it's driving.

"We learned a lot from our past car Steve, so we're taking a lot from that and modifying it," Pye said.

She said while there's no real significance to Alice's

"We learned a lot from our past car Steve."

Natasha Pye

name, the moniker helped humanize the vehicle during the two years the team spent building it.

"I think it's just random, but I think we just like to name our cars so we if we happen to be working late, you

30 km/h

Expected speed of 'Alice'

can just say, 'I'm just spending the night with Alice,'" she joked.

While Alice hasn't had a chance to stretch her legs beyond the engineering building's parking lot, the chance will come next month at the Shell Eco-marathon Americans in Detroit.

There, competitors will be required to complete six miles of track, and while Alice is expected to travel at about 30 km/h, the winner will be the car that completes the course most efficiently.

The U of A team has placed first or second in previous years, but this year has higher stakes: The top two finishers will qualify to race in London.

"Our team is really just trying to push the limits of fuel efficiency and kind of raise awareness about alternative energy transportation," Pye said.

LABOUR

Be 'pleased' you were left out of employment insurance boost: Trudeau

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pushed back at critics who say changes made to employment insurance to help the struggling energy sector don't go far enough.

Trudeau said in an interview with Global Calgary that people in Edmonton and Saskatchewan who complain of being left out of changes to the program should feel fortunate.

"I think that both people in Edmonton and Saskatchewan should be pleased that they are not hit as hard as other parts of the country and indeed the province have been," Trudeau said.

Last week's federal budget boosted employment insurance benefits in some parts of the country but left some areas of the oilpatch out.

The government said it picked 12 regions that needed the most help with extra weeks of benefits for jobless workers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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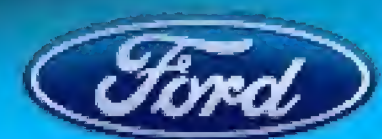
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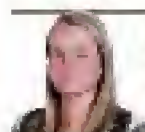
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Dad rhymes for equality

LGBT RIGHTS

Ryan Sauvé made positive rebuttal to anti-trans song



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

An Alberta dad is rap battling his way into one of the province's most controversial topics, all with the goal of making sure trans youth feel respected and supported.

Ryan Sauvé is the man behind the Respect Diversity (Ryan Cavill Remix) video posted online in response to M.H. Wiebe's Gender Bender, which spoke out against the proposed transgender guidelines for school policies set forth by the province.

"I watched Gender Bender last week and it's hard to explain, but there was kind of a feeling of uneasiness afterwards," Sauvé said. "One line in her rap, about

+ SUPPORT

According to Trans Pulse Project, in families where parents are very supportive of their trans child, as opposed to somewhat or not at all:

- The degree to which the trans youth is satisfied with life raises from 33% to 72%
- A very good to excellent state of mental health raises from 15% to 70%
- Adequate housing for the trans youth raises from 45% to 100%

SOURCE: TRANS PULSE PROJECT

the policies only affecting a small number of people, got me thinking — what if there are teens or children who are transgendered watching this and hear that line ... and I thought that it probably made them feel pretty lonely."

Sauvé said the goal with his video wasn't to put down Wiebe's beliefs, but rather to promote inclusivity with his lyrics.

"I wanted to put out a mes-



Ryan Sauvé in his rap video Respect Diversity. SCREENSHOT

sage of support in response to her video, not attacking her — because she thinks she is protecting her children and she has the right to believe that — even if I think she's wrong" he said. "I thought, let's put out a message of equality, inclusivity and tolerance and maybe if kids see my video they'll know that they're not alone and that they have support."

The father of two young children said although his kids aren't directly affected by the guidelines

yet, he wants to make sure they feel supported if they ever felt uncomfortable in their skin. He said the response he's received has been mainly positive, even if they don't necessarily think he's the greatest rapper of all time.

"My brother just texted me saying one of the comments he saw was, 'This is a good day for equality, but a bad day for rap,' and I think that is the best comment ever — hilarious," he said. "You take it in stride and you get the message out there."

OILPATCH

Study: Fracking, not water disposal, behind quakes

New research suggests that hydraulic fracking of oil and gas wells is behind earthquakes in Western Canada.

A study, published Tuesday by a group of top Canadian researchers, says problems in Alberta and British Columbia aren't being caused by injecting waste water underground. It's a major step in understanding seismic events that have already led to changed regulations in Alberta and caused public concern in both provinces.

"It's critical that we get to a complete scientific understanding of the issue," said David Eaton, a University of Calgary geophysicist and a co-author of the study.

Fracking involves pumping high-pressure fluids underground to create tiny cracks in rock to release natural gas or oil. Scientists had previously concluded that oilpatch activity can cause earthquakes by making it easier for faults in underground rock to slip, but they didn't know whether the Canadian quakes were caused by fracking or by the disposal of waste water by injecting it back underground.

Public interest has been high,

especially after a tremor in January shook pictures on the walls of homes in Fox Creek, Alta., a community in the centre of the Duvernay oil and gas field. Measuring between 4.2 and 4.8 on the Richter scale, the quake was the largest of hundreds of similar shakers around the community since 2013.

Eaton and his colleagues began with a database of more than 12,000 fracked and disposal wells drilled between 1985 and 2015. They cross-referenced that with another database of seismic events over that time.

A complex statistical analysis pinned the blame convincingly on fracking and not disposal, Eaton said.

"There are more earthquakes in Western Canada that are more related to hydraulic fracturing than waste-water injection by a factor of about two."

Eaton said the situation is reversed in the United States, where waste-water disposal is considered to be behind most human-caused seismic activity.

That doesn't mean that a lot of wells cause earthquakes. Eaton calculates that about 0.3 per cent of fracked wells create problems. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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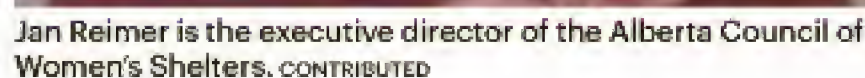


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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



“

Jan Reimer

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

Small-scale, local-scale, and regional-scale analyses of the effects of land use change on the environment are needed to develop effective management strategies. This paper presents a review of the literature on the effects of land use change on the environment, focusing on the effects of land use change on the environment at the local scale. The review is organized into three main sections: (1) the effects of land use change on the environment at the local scale, (2) the effects of land use change on the environment at the regional scale, and (3) the effects of land use change on the environment at the global scale. The review shows that land use change has a significant impact on the environment at all scales, and that the effects of land use change on the environment are complex and multifaceted. The review also shows that there is a need for more research on the effects of land use change on the environment at the local scale.

Seven dead in plane crash

MAGDALEN ISLANDS

Ex-cabinet minister and family among the victims

Tragedy struck the tight-knit world of Canadian politics Tuesday after a plane crashed in Île-de-la-Madeleine, Que., killing former federal Liberal cabinet minister Jean Lapierre, four members of his family and the two pilots of the aircraft.

The crash, which occurred as the chartered airplane was approaching the runway in poor weather conditions, was devastating for the Lapierre clan — those killed were on their way back to the remote island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to attend the funeral of Lapierre's 83-year-old father, who had just died after suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Late Tuesday night, the Quebec coroner's office confirmed that in addition to Lapierre, the dead included: his wife, Nicole Beaulieu; his sister, Martine Lapierre; his two brothers, Marc and Louis Lapierre; as well as the pilots Pascal Gosselin and



A plane crashed in a field on Quebec's Isle-de-la-Madeleine on Tuesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fabrice Labourel.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, who sat in the Liberal cabinet along with Lapierre between 2004 and 2007, said: "Jean had antennas everywhere in the world of politics" — something that was key to his success in his post-politics career as an analyst and commentator on Quebec radio and television.

"People were not scared to confide in him, to 'go in the confession booth,' as he liked to say. He maintained his neutrality and spared no one in his commentary, not even his former colleagues," Coderre said in a statement.

Indeed, once his death was confirmed Tuesday afternoon after hours of rumour and specu-

lation, tributes poured in from Liberal and Conservative prime ministers, from sovereigntists who briefly called Lapierre a colleague in the lead-up to the 1995 Quebec referendum, and from the media world, which also claimed Lapierre as one of their own when he quit elected politics for good.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JEAN LAPIERRE

Tributes pour in

Tributes poured in Tuesday for ex-federal cabinet minister Jean Lapierre following his death in a plane crash in eastern Quebec.

Many well-known Quebec journalists posted messages on social media during the day, begging Lapierre to say some-



Jean Lapierre

thing to deny rumours he was on board the plane.

"He was above all a communicator," said Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre. "He could say a lot in a few words."

"An utter shock to learn of the death of Jean Lapierre and many family members," tweeted NDP Leader Tom Mulcair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tenant shocked to see home on Airbnb



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

When Theresa Mansell and her two roommates got an email from their landlord in mid-February stating they had to vacate their Burnaby, B.C. home so his family could move in, they were disappointed and made plans to leave at the end of March.

But they were suspicious about the reason for their eviction since a few weeks earlier, a photographer showed up to take photographs of the house for Airbnb. Mansell told Metro. At the time, the landlord assured them he was only listing the basement suite, not the upper level of the house they rented for \$2,100.

"We ended up looking online and finding the ad for our actual place," said Mansell, a 24-year-old Emily Carr University student.

Mansell's experience comes as Metro Vancouver municipalities grapple with rental vacancy rates, leading politicians to question whether websites such as Airbnb are taking rental units off the housing market.

127 STREET RECONSTRUCTION

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Prince Charles School
12325 - 127 Street

► Presentation at 6:30 p.m.

In spring 2016 the City of Edmonton will begin reconstruction of 127 Street between 118 Avenue and Yellowhead Trail.

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Road reconstruction will include the complete removal and replacement of the four-lane roadway, renewal of streetlights, curbs and gutters, and some sidewalks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
edmonton.ca/127StreetUpgrade

MONTREAL

Video prompts security operation

It is "too soon" to say whether a police raid Tuesday at a Montreal home was prompted by a threat to national security, the RCMP says.

Cpl. Francois Gagnon, a spokesperson with Mounties, confirmed that the force is working "in collaboration" with the Montreal Police, who responded Tuesday morning to the threat of an explosive device in the Montreal neighbourhood of Pierrefonds-Roxboro.

But he said that it is the local police force which is leading the investigation into a suspected

bomb threat.

The Journal de Montréal reported that the emergency response Tuesday was prompted by a video posted online that appeared to show an explosive device. La Presse reported that the video was flagged to police in Quebec City, who then alerted their colleagues in Montreal after tracing the IP address of the computer that posted the video.

Officers evacuated some 200 people from their homes in the vicinity of the target residence and also temporarily shut down

a commuter train that stops in the neighbourhood.

At the home, local police found and detained two people, "the suspect and the mother," but said they found no evidence of an explosive device.

Residents were allowed to return home at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The Mayor of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, Dimitrios Jim Beis, said he was concerned by suggestions of a risk to public safety, but confident in the police's ability to handle the probe.

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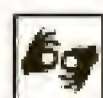
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Home renos to boost your resale value

SELLING YOUR HOME

Start in the kitchen and work your way out

Lisa Evans

If you're renovating your home with an eye to selling, it's wise to focus on the renos that will yield top dollar from potential buyers.

According to Elli Davis, a real-estate agent with Royal LePage, there are three main areas of the home where a reno can boost the asking price:

Kitchens and bathrooms
Davis says a renovated kitchen or bathroom can yield a return on investment of 50 per cent or more. They're the most-used rooms in the house, and many buyers seek out renovated kitchens and bathrooms simply because they don't want the cost and inconvenience of renovating them after they've moved in.

When renovating these rooms to sell, however, Davis recommends seeking the advice of a professional and choosing finishes that will appeal to a wide audience, not just your own taste.

"I've seen hot-pink kitchen cupboards or dark-blue cupboards," she says. "When you pick a colour that's not for everybody, it makes the audience smaller." Neutral tones are the smartest choice. "You can use bold colours in your towels and accessories but keep the tiles [and cabinets] light and bright," says Davis. It's also important to keep the height of the countertop and cupboards comfortable for the average person. Davis has seen homes with cupboards that only someone six feet tall can reach. "Don't think only of yourself but the average buyer and what they might want," she says.

Family-room additions

If your property has room for growth, Davis says a family-



A renovated kitchen can yield a return on investment of 50 per cent or more. iStock



Investing in curb appeal can do a lot to boost your home's value — it's people's first impression of your house. iStock

room addition is a wise investment.

"The hub of the house is usually the kitchen and family room," she says. One way to do this is by switching to an open-concept kitchen and living-room space, which fits with the desire of many modern families for a home that reflects a more casual lifestyle. An additional living space on the main floor yields a higher return on investment than a finished basement, according to Davis.

"Not everybody uses a basement," she says.

Landscaping

Investing in curb appeal can do a lot to boost your home's value in the eyes of potential buyers.

"It's people's first impression of your house," Davis says. A well-landscaped yard shows pride of ownership. Clean up your front yard, perhaps creating a pathway to the front door to make buyers feel welcome. Bring colour to your home's exterior by adding potted plants or even painting the front door. Creating a backyard deck also adds to your home's living space and is a great selling feature.

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Carry the colours of the season indoors by working them into your home decor in cushions, throws, accent pieces and artwork. iStock

Decor that puts spring in your home

REFRESH YOUR HOME

Spring touches will impress potential home buyers

Lisa Evans

Spring has finally sprung, bringing with it new opportunities for sellers to breathe some spring life into their homes to persuade potential buyers. Decorating your home with vibrant spring colours not only brightens up the space but your mood — and those of potential buyers. Toronto Interior Designer Mimi Pineau says incorporating the colours of the season in your home can help you sell it faster.

"In spring, everything feels very energized and fresh and you want your home to reflect that," she says. Here are four easy ways to breathe spring

life into your home:

Get rid of clutter

Spring is a great time to declutter. Sorting through all the things you've accumulated over the winter months and purging things you no longer need gives your home that airy feeling of spring and makes sure potential buyers don't get distracted by piles of paper or toys.

Bring in spring colours

Carry the colours of the season indoors by working them into your home decor in cushions, throws, accent pieces and artwork. Head to a home-design store to see what colours are in season and pick up several pieces in your chosen colour.

"You want to make sure there's a bit of that colour at different points of the room," says Pineau. When selling your home, Pineau recommends choosing colours that are universally appealing, such as greens, blues and yellows. "Colours like pink, that can be perceived as feminine, can throw some buyers off," she says.

ceived as feminine, can throw some buyers off," she says.

Bring the outdoors in

As the trees outdoors start to turn green, add some greenery to your interior space as well. Plant an herb garden on your windowsill or bring in bouquets of brightly coloured tulips.

"They're very nice to look at and they make you really feel the season," says Pineau.

Swap textures

While heavy wool pillows and throws made your home warm and cozy in the winter, spring calls for lighter textures. Swap your heavy fabrics for breezy linens. You may also want to change up your heavy duvet for a lighter bedspread.

"White bed linens are always in style and you can add some accent cushions to change with the seasons," says Pineau. Don't forget to fluff up your pillows! "That breathes a bit of extra life and luxury," says Pineau.

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

TERROR

No more 'normal' in Brussels

Belgium's justice minister pleaded Tuesday for critics of Belgium's intelligence failures to focus on the hunt for those behind last week's Brussels attacks and November's massacre in Paris.

Investigators say they are still looking for at least one suspect in the attacks seven days ago, when suicide bombers killed 32 people at Brussels' airport and in a subway station near the European Union headquarters. Three suicide bombers also blew themselves up.

The Health Ministry and victims identification officials said 90 people remain in hospital, a third of them suffering from severe burns. In a joint press conference they said the 32 dead include 17 Belgians and 15 foreigners, while 44 of the wounded are foreigners from 20 nations.

Belgium has faced rising international criticism over its evident inability to identify and monitor Daesh activists living in the capital who have been deemed responsible both for the March 22 bombings in Brussels and the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris nightspots that left 130 dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Policemen and soldiers at the entrance to Brussels' airport. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hijacking of EgyptAir flight ended peacefully

SECURITY

'Unstable' man wearing fake explosives

An Egyptian wearing a fake explosives belt who hijacked a domestic EgyptAir flight and forced it to land in Cyprus on Tuesday surrendered and was taken into custody after releasing all passengers and crew unharmed following an hours-long standoff.

Officials said early on that the hijacking was not an act of terrorism, and later that the man appeared to be psychologically

unstable. However, the incident was likely to renew concerns about Egyptian airport security months after a Russian passenger plane was downed over the Sinai Peninsula in a bombing claimed by Daesh.

"From the start, it was clear that this wasn't an act of terrorism, and despite the fact that the individual appeared to be dangerous in terms of his behaviour, we understood that this was a psychologically unstable person," Cyprus' Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides told reporters.

He said the man initially asked to speak with his Cypriot



A passenger leaves a hijacked EgyptAir aircraft after landing at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus on March 29, 2016. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ex-wife, who police brought to the airport.

"After that, he started asking for European Union representa-

tives to assure him about matters that had no logical basis," Kasoulides said.

At one point the hijacker de-

manded the release of women held in Egyptian prisons, but he then dropped the demand and made others. "His demands made no sense or were too incoherent to be taken seriously," the minister said, adding that the contents of a letter the hijacker wanted to give to his ex-wife "were also incoherent."

Egypt's Interior Ministry identified the hijacker as 58-year-old Seif Eddin Mustafa. It said he has a long criminal record, with charges including forgery, theft and drug possession. He had also served time in prison, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIGRANTS TENSIONS HIGH AT GREEK BORDER AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

Migrant children look from inside a rail car at a train station near a makeshift refugee camp at the northern Greek border point of Idomeni, Greece on March 29, 2016. More than 15,000 people — nearly a third of the total stranded in Greece — are refusing to move to government-built shelters around the country, and remain at the border with Macedonia and at the port of Piraeus, near Athens.

Meanwhile, police have clashed with hundreds of migrants and refugees.

DARKO VOJNOVIC/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tech industry struggles to find skilled workers

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Web developers and coders

Three years ago, Erik Dohnberg was working at the Genius Bar at an Apple store in London, Ont.

He'd been there for 10 months after graduating with an information and media studies degree from Western University when he decided he wanted more.

With the intention of starting up his own business, Dohnberg signed up for a nine-week boot camp at Bitmaker Labs, a web developer training school in Toronto.

Within two weeks of completing the boot camp, Dohnberg had 16 job interviews and received two job offers. One of them was from Bitmaker Labs.

Tech skills programs like the ones at Bitmaker Labs have been sprouting up over the past few years in response to a tech talent shortage in Canada. It's a



A tutor helps a student at Lighthouse Labs in Toronto, Ont.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

problem that has been bubbling to the surface, as more startups open up shop and try to recruit from an already-small pool of Canadian coders and developers.

A report released earlier this month by the Information and Communications Technology Council estimates that 218,000 tech jobs will be created in Canada by 2020. It warns that it could cost the economy billions of dollars in lost productivity,

tax revenues and GDP if Canada doesn't address the tech skills gap.

At Bitmaker, courses range from weekend boot camps to an intensive nine-week course for \$9,000. The school believes anyone can learn how to code and its students include everyone from college and university dropouts to ex-engineers, investment bankers and skilled labourers. Bitmaker has also

enrolled computer engineer and science graduates looking to update their skills.

Dohnberg said such boot camps are still not producing workers fast enough to meet the demands of the ever-evolving tech industry, making it vital for colleges and universities to tailor their programs for jobs in the sector.

Vancouver-based Lighthouse Labs, which also runs web developer boot camps, sees its role as completely separate from that of a post-secondary institution.

"We consider ourselves complementary to university. We're not trying to undercut it or disrupt it," said Jeremy Shaki, Lighthouse chief executive and self-proclaimed "chief talking officer."

The eight-week boot camp at Lighthouse accepts one out of three applicants, with the deciding factor being motivation, a coding background and a willingness to do hard work.

"We don't take people who are in it for the gold rush," said Shaki. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HIRING

Talent shortage means university not required

Before Hired launched in Toronto last November, nearly 27,000 people and more than 280 companies applied for the online service that matches job seekers with gigs in the tech sector.

About five per cent of applicants are approved to use Hired's services, and it usually charges firms 15 per cent of a new employee's first-year salary for each successful hire.

To Matt Mickiewicz, the company's co-founder and chief product officer, the high interest signals a problem — the jobs are there, but there are too few qualified candidates to fill them.

Canada's tech companies are in stiff competition for retain-

ing top prospects. Organizations are struggling to find qualified applicants.

One of the top challenges for many is attracting and recruiting employees, according to an ICTC survey where more than 53 per cent of respondents identified it as a problem.

It's an issue Shopify, an Ottawa-based company, has encountered.

"In looking for folks who are going to raise the bar, absolutely, there are challenges," said Anna Lambert, Shopify's director of talent acquisition.

Tech companies must have an expansive recruitment strategy to bring in the best employees, she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Shopify's Harry Brundage and Anna Lambert THE CANADIAN PRESS

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- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 3, 2016. PLEASE QUOTE: "Receptionist/Sales Coordinator - Edmonton" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.



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- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Solid understanding of the media industry and its trends and prepared to make valuable recommendations based on that knowledge
- Digital subject matter expert
- Dedication to achieving results while maintaining a positive and motivated attitude
- Derives satisfaction from providing support and sharing expertise

Individuals interested and having the skills described are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than April 3, 2016.

PLEASE QUOTE: "DIGITAL SALES SPECIALIST — Edmonton" in the Subject Line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.



URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE QUESTION
My date had a poppy seed
in her teeth during breakfast,
but I didn't say anything in case
I embarrassed her. Should I have
said something?

Dear Ellen,
 I was on a date recently, with a woman I met online. Actually it was the morning after, and it was breakfast. She had a poppy seed from a bagel stuck in her teeth, which was really noticeable, but I didn't say anything in case I embarrassed her. Then I thought, if she notices it in the mirror later, she'll be embarrassed anyway. Should I have said something?

R.D., Edmonton

Dear R.D.,
 Your letter, like so many letters I get, raises all kinds of questions that may or may not have to do with etiquette — but which are fascinating nonetheless.

For example, you say you were on a "date," but I think we may fairly assume you had a night of sex that led to a "morning after." To some people, that might qualify as a relationship already. Others might call it a one-night stand. Your use of the rather quaint word "date" puts the encounter somewhere between the two.

You also fail to indicate whether it was a first date, or the 20th time you've been out with this person, and — if closer to the latter — at what point sexual congress began.

Finally, you specify that you "met online." It makes me wonder whether you approach online dates differently from IRL setups. Should

You should always say something when your companion has food in their teeth. ... The trick is to do it quickly and jovially.

Maybe if I lick her teeth vigorously...



He loves me!!

@Ani Castillo

one? Hmm, if the dates are being arranged via Ashley Madison or a BDSM site, then perhaps one should.

What exactly is your relationship with this person? It's all very confusing.

Not the etiquette part. That's easy. The answer is yes, you should always say something when your companion has food in their teeth, or something hanging out of their nose, or their shirt buttons are gaping open to expose a brassiere, or they have a wire coat hanger dangling off the belt of their jacket, which I once had to point out to a roommate as she raced off to a job interview. I noticed the hanger as she ran out the door, and called out to her: "Stop! Come back!" This made her

miss her bus, be late for the interview, and not get the job, which she still blames me for. But I maintain that if she showed up with the hanger on her belt, she wouldn't have got the job anyway.

Are there any exceptions to this rule? Yes, if you meet the Queen of England and she has food in her teeth, you may safely assume she has enough advisors around her to deal with the situation, and save yourself the trouble and discomfort of pointing it out. The same goes with dictators, muggers or your boss during a performance review. Whilst at the mercy of someone who has the power to end your life or career, it is acceptable to put your own social com-

fort before theirs.

In your encounter with your date, however, mentioning the poppy seed as soon as you noticed it would have been the considerate thing to do. To minimize embarrassment for either of you, the trick is to do it quickly and jovially (as if it's a funny, cute thing), and not in a low, embarrassed murmur (as if it's a horrifying, shameful thing).

And then, R.D., get on with your date, or relationship, or online hookup, or whatever it is you are doing with this woman, just so long as you continue to do so with good manners.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
 scene@metronews.ca

metroview

Rob Ford's dismal LGBT record needs to be remembered



Rob Salerno
 For Metro

It's not surprising that in the wake of Rob Ford's death, commentators from all corners are rushing to forgive or explain away the former mayor's many personal failings.

But while pundits have occasionally contorted themselves into logical pretzels to explain away Ford's casual racism and misogyny — "He was just drunk!" "He always fights for the little guy!" — none has ever been able to explain away his deliberate and calculated anti-LGBT statements and actions.

Ford never hid anti-LGBT animus. From his earliest days on council, when he opposed funding small grants to diversity and AIDS-prevention campaigns, he made it explicit that his opposition stemmed from disgust with LGBT people, not from a desire to protect the public purse.

"I have no problem giving money out to physically or mentally handicapped children or seniors, but spending \$5,000 on this video is disgusting," Ford said of an educational video about homosexuality in the South Asian community in 2001.

"If you're not doing needles and you're not gay, you won't get AIDS, probably," is another Ford classic that reveals not only shocking ignorance about AIDS, but a cavalier attitude toward the lives of gays and (ironically) drug users.

As mayor, Ford's opposi-

tion to the existence of LGBT people in the city intensified. The dispiriting annual game of will-he-or-won't-he-march-in-Pride provided his allies with a convenient set of excuses — it was about the city money given to Pride, and besides, he was spending time with his family — but through four years in office, he systematically avoided any opportunity to meet with the LGBT community in an official capacity.

When the city protocol office decided to raise the Pride flag at city hall during the 2014 Sochi Olympics to support LGBT Russians and athletes, Ford protested loudly and demanded it come down. Later that year, he made it a point to remain seated as council stood to congratulate the success of World Pride.

Beyond these symbolic gestures, Ford cast the lone vote on council against a report that recommended increased supports for homeless LGBT youth.

Ford's homophobia wasn't just a private matter, either. His "Nation" included a contingent of homophobes who ate up his provocations and responded with occasional violence toward LGBT people.

While the community stood firm and fought back, Ford's campaign to diminish the lives and dignity of LGBT people in Toronto should not be forgotten.

Rob Salerno is a gay journalist and activist who has written for Daily Xtra, NOW and Vice, among other outlets.

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Juno menu hits all the right notes

Bass is Base Juno-award winning artist Roger Mooking is the first celebrity chef to curate the food for the 2016 Juno Gala Dinner & Awards with his exclusive three-course meal for Canada's music elite. Mooking's multicultural influences are reflected in the appetizer and signature Juno week drinks shared here. **RECIPES COURTESY ROGER MOOKING**

STEP ONE

Spiced croutes

Yield: 4 servings

- Sidewalk Citizen Staple sourdough loaf
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp sweet paprika
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp sea salt
- 1 1/2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Preheat oven to 350F. Slice sourdough loaf widthwise into 1/2-inch thick slices. Mix all ingredients together and using a pastry brush, distribute mixture on 4 slices of sourdough. Toast bread in oven 6 minutes. Let cool on baking tray.

STEP TWO

Slow roasted Sunset Campari tomatoes

Preheat oven to 350F. Toss whole Sunset Campari tomatoes gently with olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake in oven for 16 minutes. Cool on baking tray until room temperature. Store gently until service as they are meant to be blistered but intact for service.



Chef Roger Mooking.

ALL PHOTOS BY NIKOLAI CUTHILL

STEP THREE

Roasted garlic

- 12 garlic cloves, peeled
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 tsp water

Preheat oven to 350F. Toss garlic cloves with olive oil, salt, pepper and water. Place garlic cloves on prepared baking sheet and cover tightly with aluminium foil. Bake for 45 minutes or until cloves are tender. Let cool on baking tray.

STEP FOUR

Nuh Gana dressing

Yield: 6-8 servings

- 1 red sweet pepper, roasted, peeled and de-seeded
- 8 cloves of roasted garlic
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp white wine vinegar

Combine all ingredients in a high speed blender and puree until smooth.

STEP FIVE

Salad mix

Yield: 2 servings

- 2 cups Loosely Packed Baby Kale
- 2 cups Loosely Packed Baby Arugula
- 1/2 cup Torn Fresh Basil Leaves
- 2 cups Torn Boston Bib Lettuce

Gently toss ingredients together to combine.

WHISKEY COCKTAIL

Cool With That - Brett Kissel

- 2 oz J.P. Wiser's
- 1/2 oz McGuinness simple syrup or homemade
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon
- 1/4 oz grenadine
- Garnish: lemon zest

Method: Combine the ingredients in a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake hard until well blended and chilled for about 5 to 6 seconds. Fine strain over ice in glass. Squeeze a lemon zest across the drink to release the oils, give it a twist and place it in the drink.



THE JUNO GALA DINNER MENU

Tomato Surprise

*Baby Greens & Sunset Campari Bomb — Boston, Basil, Kale, Arugula, Sidewalk Citizen Spiced Croutes, Roasted Garlic Nuh Gana Dressing, Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Alberta Love

Blackened Canadian Rangeland Bison Tenderloin & Chimichurri — Parmesan Crushed Fingerlings, Grilled Lemon & Chili Oil Baby Bok Choy
*Herbed Mushroom Toast — Sidewalk Citizen Sourdough, Parmesan Crushed Fingerlings, Grilled Lemon & Chili Oil Baby Bok Choy

Cracked Caramel & Brownies

*Cup O' Coffee & Brownies — Chocolate Brownie Chunks, Phil & Sebastian Espresso Mousse, Sautéed Banana, Cracked Caramel

* indicates vegetarian option

VODKA COCKTAIL

Downtown - The Sheepdogs

- 1 oz Polar Ice
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 2 oz fresh grapefruit
- Garnish: wedge of grapefruit

Method: Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake until well-blended for about 5 to 6 seconds and fine strain into ice filled rocks glass and garnish with wedge of grapefruit.





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This salmon salad is pretty in pink

RECIPE

**A light and
herby option
for warmer
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Nothing quite tastes of spring like a salmon salad.

It's light and pretty and herby, and when you add pasta it becomes a real meal. It's also quite portable, so you'll want to think of this when you're envisioning lunch at your desk the next day, or when you're invited to a pot-luck event.

And talk about easy to make. Poach the salmon. Boil the pasta. Puree dressing. Dump everything together and you're good. You can speed chill the salmon by popping it in the freezer for a few minutes. But if you have more time, you certainly could poach the salmon the night before and refrigerate it until ready. Likewise, the pasta also could be cooled briefly in the freezer, spread in an even layer on a rimmed baking sheet (or similarly prepped the day before).

Pasta salad with salmon and creamy cilantro dressing

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 2-lb salmon fillet, bones removed
- Kosher salt
- 1 lb cavatelli or elbow pasta
- For the cilantro sauce:**
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves, plus extra to garnish
- 1/4 cup minced shallots
- 1/4 cup minced shallots
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard



This salmon pasta salad serves six. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt (or another 1/4 cup mayonnaise)
- 2 Tbsp heavy cream
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- Ground black pepper

Directions:

1. Set the salmon in a large sauté pan. If needed, cut the salmon into 2 pieces. Add cold water to just cover.

2. Season with 2 teaspoons salt, then bring to a boil. Immediately turn off the heat, cover the pot and let the salmon sit for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, transfer the salmon to a plate and set in the freezer to cool.

3. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Add the pasta and cook according to package directions, then drain. Rinse under cold water to cool. Set aside to drain.

4. Meanwhile, in a food processor or blender combine the cilantro, shallots, Dijon, mayonnaise, yogurt, cream and cayenne. Puree until smooth, then season with salt and pepper.

5. When the salmon is chilled, remove the skin, if necessary, and break the flesh into bite-sized chunks.

6. In a large bowl, combine the pasta, cilantro sauce and salmon, then toss gently to combine. Garnish with additional cilantro leaves.

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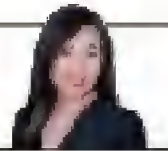
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What happens when 'It' goes on sale

STYLE

I'm a grown woman and I went bananas over a bag

Irene Kuan
Metro | Canada



I'm a level-headed, mature woman, but for a few minutes on the morning of March 29, I turned into a hyper-crazed, foaming-at-the-mouth maniac — for a handbag.

Touted as the bag to have by the international fashion gods, the black bucket bag with the red "flamma" interior by the little-known, yet notoriously hard-to-get brand Mansur Gavriel, has been on my must-have list for more than a year.

I've never managed to snag one, though, and I seethe with jealousy whenever I see a woman carrying one.

Mansur Gavriel, an American fashion house founded by designing duo Rachel Mansur and Floriana Gavriel, came to the attention of the media in 2013, and has continued to make a bigger splash on the fashion scene with each new collection, including at the latest New York fashion week in February.

Called the first post-recession "it" bag by Business of Fashion in early 2015, Mansur Gavriel's bucket bag has reached such cult status that the company headed to court earlier this month to fight back against copycats.

I needed this bag. I didn't care about the cost, or my composure. I was obsessed. I counted down the minutes to 11 a.m. EST, PayPal account logged in and credit cards in hand. I had my boyfriend and a friend on standby in case anything went wrong (if you've tried buying a Mansur Gavriel online in the past, you'll know what I'm talking about).

Everything went wrong. My black bucket bag was in the shopping cart, but my credit card was declined over and over again.

Seconds ticked by as the "sold out" slash marks began appearing over each sought-after bag.

My heart began to sink, but then my friend texted. She got one! Then my boyfriend — he got one too!

So now I have not just one but TWO Mansur Gavriel bags. Price tag for both: \$1,250 US.

Had I gone bananas?

Maybe I fell for the genius way the fashion brand marketed their product, playing up the small-batch, high-quality production of the Italian-made bags, teasing us for weeks with the tiny, online sales window.

But then I looked at Mansur Gavriel's Facebook page, as it filled up with angry comments from throngs of disappointed shoppers.

See, it is THAT hard to get, I thought. And I got not one, but TWO. Score.

Metro's Irene Kuan scored not one, but two coveted Mansur Gavriel bags.

HANDOUT



“

I needed this bag. I didn't care about the cost, or my composure.

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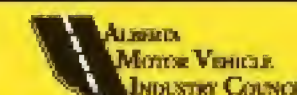


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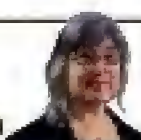
Imperfect — but maybe perfect for you



REVIEW

Rogue great for cruising, but acceleration is sluggish

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada



When you're shopping, there is no perfect vehicle. Instead, it comes down to measuring the pros and cons — what you love, what you don't, and what you can live with — to come up with the right one.

That's what I did with the Nissan Rogue. There are some things it could certainly do better, but overall, I could live with this little trucklet.

It was completely redesigned back in 2014, a makeover that solved its interior-space inadequacies, especially the cramped rear seat.

It's now quite roomy inside despite its compact exterior dimensions.

You can even get a third row of seats, although I've never tried squeezing into one and don't imagine it would be pleasant.

My two-row version included a configurable cargo tray that can be lifted to hide valuables, dropped to accommodate taller items, or flipped up to keep gro-

cery bags from sliding around. The Rogue uses a 2.5-litre four-cylinder, mated strictly to an automatic continuously-variable transmission (CVT).

Its performance is fine once you're at cruising speed, but acceleration to get there is noisy and sluggish.

The ride is quiet and smooth, but I'd like more steering feel. All-wheel drive, optional on the two lower trim levels and standard on the top-line SL, primarily runs the front wheels but sends power to the rear ones when needed.

It can also be locked 50/50 at low speeds to get out of snow or mud.

There's a wide step over the sill. Once you're inside, the seats are very comfortable. And

I love this: the seatbelt adjuster slides down farther than on anything else I've ever driven, so it doesn't choke shorter drivers.

The Rogue's starting price of \$24,948 puts it mid-range with most competi-

tors. My tester was the new SV Special trim, a version of the mid-range SV but \$1,000 less since it lacks the SV's panoramic sunroof — a nice alternative if, like me, you want creature comforts but don't care for a glass top.

It's all part of choosing the vehicle that isn't perfect, but is ideal for you.



I love this: the seatbelt adjuster slides down farther than on anything else I've ever driven, so it doesn't choke shorter drivers.

THE CHECKLIST 2016 NISSAN ROGUE

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Engines (hp/torque). 2.5-litre four-cylinder (170/175)

Transmissions. Continuously variable (CVT)
Price. \$24,948 - \$35,548; as-tested \$29,548 (plus destination)

COOL FEATURES

- Configurable cargo compartment
- Sliding and reclining second-row seats
- Satellite radio
- Available blind spot warning and emergency braking
- Easy-Fill tire pressure system
- Hill start assist
- Available power liftgate



ROGUE PHOTOS JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- The rear-view camera has a limited view and is mainly for judging curbs when parking; the bird's-eye camera on higher trims is far superior.
- The Rogue has been in the top-ten list of best-selling SUVs and light trucks in Canada for 19 consecutive months.

MARKET POSITION

Nissan offers the Rogue and Juke in the compact SUV/ CUV segment. The Juke's more fun to drive, but it's smaller and its styling isn't to all tastes, leaving the Rogue to appeal to a more mainstream audience.

THE COMPETITION



Ford Escape
Base price: \$24,199



Toyota RAV4
Base price: \$25,240

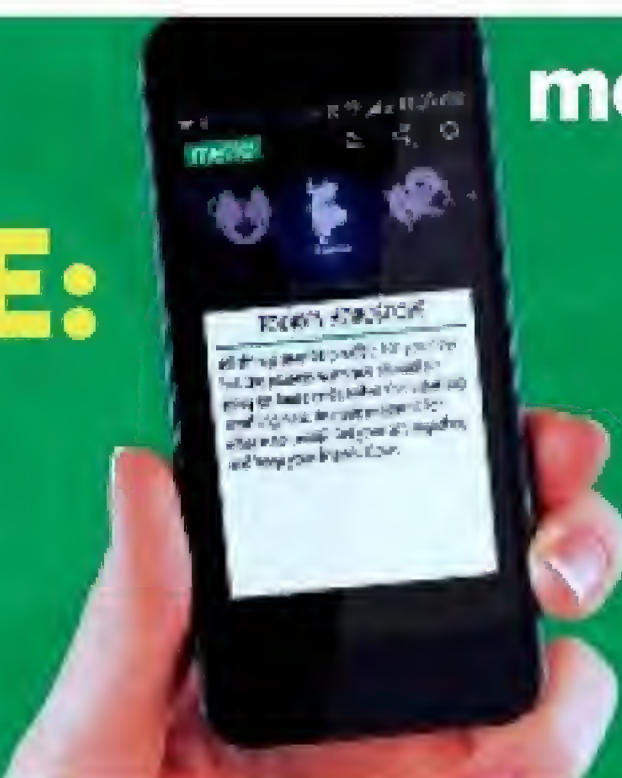


Honda CR-V
Base price: \$26,190

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SUV reimaged as 'personal sanctuary'

LINCOLN NAVIGATOR SUV

Concept lighter, but still a behemoth

A spacious lounge on wheels.

That's Ford Motor Co.'s vision for the Lincoln Navigator SUV, due for its first major redesign in a decade. With help from actor and spokesman Matthew McConaughey, the brand unveiled a concept version of the vehicle recently at the New York International Auto Show.

The Navigator will drop some weight, helping fuel economy, but will still be a behemoth at more than 17-feet long. Executives say engineers took steps to erase what Navigator customers didn't like and accentuate what they did.

By watching customers, engineers found that people wanted to relax in their SUVs with less complexity. So they tried to create a "personal sanctuary" with large but supportive seats and a spacious feel. They made the dashboard less cluttered with only essential information such as vehicle speed on the display.



Lincoln unveiled a concept version of its Navigator full-size SUV with the help of spokesperson and actor Matthew McConaughey, ahead of the New York International Auto Show. FORD/CONTRIBUTED

Other information, such as the identity of a phone caller or a song on the radio, fades away after the first showing.

David Woodhouse, design director for the Lincoln brand, said they went for "a beautiful lounge-like space for the occupants."

Lincoln has largely missed the luxury big SUV boom that hap-

pened in part because of cheap gasoline. The brand sold only about 12,000 Navigators last year while its main competitor, General Motors' Cadillac brand, sold almost 36,000 Escalades. The Navigator, based on truck underpinnings, has been updated but not completely revamped since 2006.

Kumar Galhotra, president of the Lincoln brand, expects the new vehicle to capture a bigger chunk of the market now dominated by GM.

Galhotra wouldn't comment on expectations that the new Navigator will have an aluminum body like Ford F-150, which is 700 pounds lighter than the model

it replaced.

The new model needs to be lighter to meet federal fuel economy standards. No gas mileage or weight figures for the new vehicle were released Wednesday.

The new Navigator will be smaller than the current extra-length version, but bigger than the standard model, which is

+ DIFFERENCE

What won't make it

One feature on the concept Navigator won't survive in the production version that comes late next year: huge gull-wing doors that cover the first two rows of seats. They're too heavy and tough to work in real life.

17.3 feet in length.

The current standard model weighs 2.9 tons.

McConaughey made a short appearance on stage with executives, walking next to the Navigator and speaking briefly about it. Ford CEO Mark Fields attributed the brand's recent sales increases in part to McConaughey.

Second- and third-row passengers get video screens behind the headrests that are a foot wide. Drivers can show their faces on the screens and communicate with the back-seat passengers without turning around or yelling.

The SUV also will get a twin-turbo version of Ford's 3.5-litre V6 engine with over 400 horsepower. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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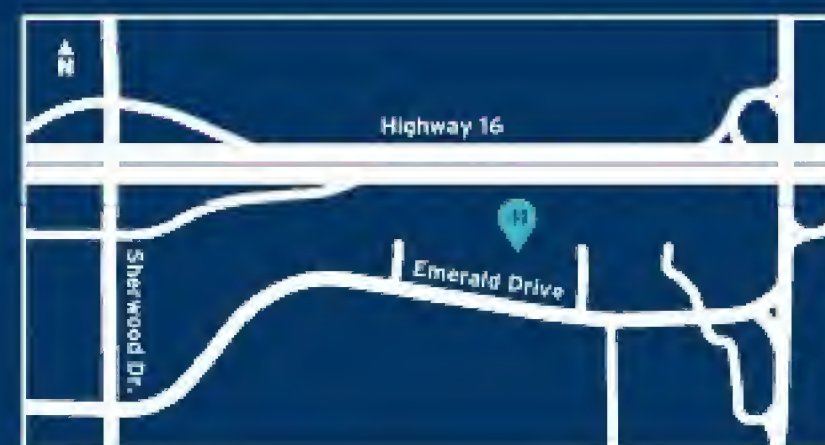
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IN MONTREAL HABS BEAT RED WINGS Detroit Red Wings left-winger Justin Abdelkader fights the Canadiens' Alexei Emelin on Tuesday night in Montreal. The Habs rallied for a 4-3 win. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No more tears: Moving on minus the playoffs

NHL

Seven Canadian cities lacking a certain buzz this spring

Pete Mahovlich cried. He teared up after the last game of the 1969-70 season, when the Montreal Canadiens were eliminated from the playoffs. They finished fifth in the NHL's East Division with 92 points, 21 points up on the sixth-place Maple Leafs, but they lost a tiebreaker with the New York Rangers. "I was devastated, really, really devastated," said Mahovlich, a big, scoring winger who is now a scout with the Florida Panthers. "I'll tell you why I cried. I had been with the Detroit Red Wings for three years, and they had not made the playoffs in those three years."

"So I got traded to Montreal, and in the very first year I got traded there, that was the first time they'd missed the playoffs in 20 years." Few, least of all Mahovlich, could have seen it coming then. For the first time in NHL history, no Canadian team would participate in the Stanley Cup playoffs. But everyone can see it happening this year, when no Canadian team will see the post-season for the second time. (Heading into Tuesday night's games, Ottawa was the last hope and that hope was hanging by a thread; the Senators were one loss or one Boston

point from elimination.) It was a development predicted as early as January and feared by Sportsnet, the Canadian rights holder for playoff broadcasts. It became obvious at the trade deadline when the seven Canadian teams were sellers, more interested in high-draft positions than making a desperate run for the last wild-card spot. The apathy across Canada, a supposedly hockey-mad country, has been palpable. Not only have ratings crashed, but on a recent Saturday night, U.S. college basketball's March Madness trended on Twitter ahead

of anything emanating from the Hockey Night in Canada broadcast. There is no sense of drama with the Canadian teams, unless your idea of drama is a turtle race to last place. Fans of one team actively cheer for their rival to win. Goodness knows what will happen when Edmonton plays Calgary later this week. Leafs fans were very happy to lose to Ottawa recently. Today, with wild cards and the possibility of divisional cross-overs, truly the worst teams miss the playoffs. And seven of them are Canadian. "Last year, five Canadian teams made (the playoffs)," Mahovlich said. "It shows you how fragile some of those teams can be when you have that many teams miss the playoffs after making the playoffs. Injuries play a part, there are so many factors that can set an organization back. It doesn't take much." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



It shows you how fragile some of those teams can be.

Pete Mahovlich, noting that five Canadian teams made the playoffs last year.

CONCUSSIONS

NHL docs show leaders' concern

Unsealed NHL documents in the concussion lawsuit brought by former players reveal an internal debate by league officials over head injuries and a deeper concern about the impact of fighting than what has been publicly shared by NHL leadership. Spokesman Frank Brown said Tuesday the league's stance has not changed from Commissioner Gary Bettman's comments during the All-Star game weekend. Bettman said then that the

release of the "out of context" documents would be "a distraction at best" and "not impact the merits of the case." The material was obtained by The Associated Press from counsel for the plaintiffs and was first reported by Canadian sports network TSN. More than 100 former NHL players have joined the class action against the league over its handling of concussions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Jon Gott signs deal with Redblacks

Offensive lineman Jon Gott signed a two-year contract extension with the Ottawa Redblacks on Tuesday. The deal takes Gott through the 2018 season. Gott, 30, helped Ottawa reach the Grey Cup last year. The Redblacks acquired the bearded lineman from the Calgary Stampeders for the rights to offensive lineman Marwan Hage and the first overall pick in the 2014 CFL draft. "Jon has been the anchor of

our offensive line from Day 1," Ottawa general manager Marcel Desjardins said in a statement. "His contributions to the Redblacks both on and off the field have been tremendous and to be able to secure his services through the 2018 season is great news for our team and our city." Gott, an Edmonton native, said it was an easy decision to re-sign in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Pistons hold off Durant-less Thunder

Marcus Morris scored 24 points, and the Detroit Pistons took advantage of Kevin Durant's absence in an 88-82 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night. The Thunder rested Durant and Serge Ibaka, and Oklahoma City was held to only nine points in the third period en route to its lowest-scoring game of the season. The Thunder rallied from a 15-point deficit, closing the gap to just one in the fourth, but Detroit was able to hold on late for another victory in its push for a playoff spot. The Thunder had their eight-game winning streak snapped. Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 24 points on 8-of-28 shooting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulls end 4-game skid

Jimmy Butler made a tie-breaking jumper with 3.7 seconds left, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Indiana Pacers 98-96 on Tuesday night to snap a four-game losing streak. Nikola Mirotic scored 28 points as Chicago (37-37) got back to .500. He made seven 3-pointers, his final one tying it at 96 with 2:19 remaining. The Pacers missed five shots in the final 2 minutes that would have given them the lead before the Bulls rebounded Pau Gasol's miss with 20 seconds remaining and got the ball to Butler for his 17-footer from the right wing. CJ Miles missed a 3-pointer that would have won it as time expired. Paul George led all Pacers with 20 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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